

65th YEAR

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WEATHER
PAGE 7 —CLOUDY

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DR. DES PORTES IS FOUND DEAD

Believed to Have Succumbed to
Heart Failure While
Out in Snow.

HAD LEFT HOUSE OF MOURNING

His Wife Called From Body of
Her Sister by Death
of Husband.

The body of Dr. H. Valmont Des-Portes, 1623 West Franklin Street, who had offices in the Chamber of Commerce Building, was found at the corner of North Avenue and the Boulevard, Barton Heights, last night about 10:30 o'clock. Snow was sprinkled over the clothing and a thin canopy covered the ground about the body, leading to the belief that Dr. Des-Portes had been dead some time before his body was found by a passerby. Dr. J. T. Storer, Jr., who happened to be near the scene, was of the opinion that heart failure was the cause of death.

At the house of Joseph H. Smith, 601 Roger Street, Battery Court, a short distance away, Mrs. Des-Portes was assisting relatives in preparing the body of her sister, Mrs. J. H. Smith, for burial when informed of the death of her husband. Mrs. Smith had died yesterday afternoon after a lingering illness. News of Dr. Des-Portes' death was conveyed to the grief-stricken household by neighbors who had visited the spot where his body lay and who had identified it with the assistance of Policeman Martin, of the Second Precinct.

MRS. DESPORTES HURRIES
TO WHERE BODY IS FOUND

Mrs. Des-Portes was one of the closest of the relatives who hastened to the scene. She had been informed at once of the death of her husband and, scarcely taking time to don her hat and coat against the biting wind and blizzards of snow, she hurried to the spot. With her came her brother, E. Lander McLaughlin, 1620 North Avenue, and his wife, as well as other relatives. Maintaining a tight rein on her emotions, she approached the body and felt the pulse.

"My doctor" were the first words that escaped her lips as she knelt at the side of the dead man. Slowly she examined the clothing and gazed, slowly, comprehending, at the signs of dirt on the clothing. "Did he fall?" she continued to herself, as she gazed at the body of her husband. "He would not have fallen away. They feared she would collapse. But she did not. With the arrival of her younger son, Eugene S. Des-Portes, she wept silently on his shoulder for a short time, and then began to plan for the care of the body. Undertaker Biley had been given charge of Mrs. Smith's funeral and he was called in again by the family. His son, a member of the family, was on duty at the time and he was about to be removed when Mrs. Des-Portes announced her intention of accompanying it. She directed that it be taken directly to their home on West Franklin Street, and did so, with her son, who had been rushed to the scene in a friend's automobile.

CORNER TO MAKE
INVESTIGATION TO-DAY

First information of the death was communicated to the Second Precinct Station by some one living in the vicinity. Policeman Martin found that Dr. Des-Portes was dead, although the body was yet warm, and at once communicated with Police Headquarters. Detective Sergeant Wiltshire and Wily went to the scene and took charge. At the direction of Coroner Taylor, the body was turned over to the family, and will be examined to-day.

Mrs. McLaughlin said last night that she had accompanied Dr. Des-Portes to the corner of North Avenue and the Boulevard a short time after 10 o'clock, and had left him waiting on the corner for a street car. During the short wait to the corner the dentist had complained of a pain near his heart, she said, and she advised him to take the first car for home. He had been over to the house of Mr. Smith, where Mrs. Des-Portes was assisting in preparing the body of her sister for burial. Mrs. McLaughlin said that she looked back as she returned to the Smith home, and had seen Dr. Des-Portes standing on the corner.

NO EVIDENCE IS FOUND
OF ANY FOUL PLAY

That was the last seen of him alive. When the body was discovered, it was on the opposite side of the street from where Mrs. McLaughlin had seen the dentist last night. It is supposed that when it made the stop before taking the turn at that point, the body was found just on the edge of the pavement. A slight abrasion was found on the right cheek by Detective Sergeant Wily, and it is thought this wound was made when Dr. Des-Portes fell to the street. There was no indication of foul play discovered last night, and it is thought death was due to heart failure.

Dr. Des-Portes was a native of Columbia, S. C., but had lived in Richmond the greater part of his life. He is said to have graduated from the old Medical College of Virginia, and to have taken up the practice of dentistry here soon after graduation. He was about fifty-eight years old, and is survived by his wife, who was a Miss McLaughlin, of this city, and two sons, Eugene S. of this city, and Dr. Del V. Des-Portes, a dentist of Roanoke.

No arrangements for the funeral had been made last night.

Allies Must Defeat.
LONDON, December 6.—"Germany can have peace as soon as she likes," remarks the Post editorially, "but only upon the terms of the allies."

"The right answer to the German peace proposals," the editorial continues, "is for the allies to determine what shall be the terms of peace to be dictated when the right moment comes."

Often Reported Dead



CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

GERMAN CROWN PRINCE PROVES "HARD TO KILL"

Danish Newspaper Compiles History
of Frederick William During
Progress of War.

REPORTS GIVEN OUT BY ENEMIES

From August 5 Last Year to February 3, 1915, Said to Have Been Wounded, Killed, Buried, Gone Insane and Committed Suicide.

BERLIN, December 5.—(By wireless to Sayville.)—The Overseas News Agency, under the title, "Hard to Kill," to-day gave out what it says is a history of the German Crown Prince during the war, as compiled by a Danish newspaper from reports given out by Germany's enemies. The history follows: "August 5, 1914—Victim of an attempt against his life in Berlin. "August 13—Severely wounded while on the French frontier. "August 26—Second attempt against his life, in which he lost one leg. "August 24—Third attempt against his life. "September 4—Committed suicide. "September 13—Died in a Brussels hospital. "September 15—Commanded an attack near Verdun. "September 16—Wounded by a shrapnel in Poland. "September 18—Once more wounded while on the French front. "September 26—Is hastened to his deathbed. "October 24—Buried in Berlin. "October 25—His body found on the battle field. "November 3—Once more buried. "November 4—Once more killed by the French. "November 8—Insane; taken to a lonely castle. "November 14—Appointed chief commander on the eastern front. "November 17—Once more killed. "January 16, 1915—Once more wounded. "February 3—Sent home."

U. S. OFFICERS IN YOKOHAMA

Men From American Cruiser Saratoga Warmly Welcomed at Garden Party.

TOYOYO, December 5.—The officers of the American cruiser Saratoga were warmly welcomed at garden party in Yokohama last night. During the festivities, Geisha girls performed ancient dances and waved American and Japanese flags. Mayor Ando expressed pleasure at the presence of Rear Admiral Winterhalter and his staff at the function. The admiral received 400 Japanese officers on board the Saratoga, which was beautifully decorated. Tonight Vice Admiral Cato, commander of the second Japanese squadron, gave a dinner to the visiting Americans, and Admiral Winterhalter will give a banquet to the Japanese aboard the Saratoga December 9. Thousands of persons are visiting the Saratoga, which is regarded here as a messenger of the good will and friendship of the United States.

KAISER IN ILL HEALTH

Reported as Morose and Silent, and No Longer Directing Military Operations.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, December 5.—The Kaiser is in ill health, and is no longer directing the military operations, according to Berlin advices to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The dispatch states that the Emperor recently has become morose and silent, and his changed demeanor has given his physicians cause for grave anxiety.

Many reports have been published regarding recurring ill health of the Kaiser since the beginning of the war. Until now all of them have been refuted by subsequent authentic news that the ruler is taking an active part in the direction of the military and economic affairs of the empire.

MUTINY ON BOARD CHINESE CRUISER

Crew of Chao-Ho Turns Guns
on Other Warships in
Harbor.

ARSENAL ALSO IS SHELLED

Authorities Announce That Rebellious Vessel Will Be Sunk at Daybreak.

SHANGHAI, December 6.—The crew of the Chinese cruiser Chao-Ho mutinied last night and opened fire on two other warships and the arsenal. The fire was returned, the engagement lasting for an hour. Several shots fell in the foreign concessions. Apparently the outbreak has been confined to the Chao-Ho. The Chinese authorities announce that she will be shelled and sunk at daybreak.

CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS
OF OUTBREAK CURRENT

Conflicting accounts of the outbreak are current, and, owing to strict measures by the authorities, it has been impossible to obtain official information. It appears, however, that at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon twenty men set forth from the foreign settlement in a launch and went alongside the Chao-Ho, lying opposite the Kiang-Nan arsenal.

On the arrival of the launch the Chao-Ho's crew mutinied, apparently by prearrangement. About 6 o'clock the mutineers opened fire on the arsenal, the cruiser Hai-Chi and the gunboat Tung-Ching.

The Hai-Chi and Tung-Ching replied, and there was lively cannonading for an hour. At least half of a dozen three-pound shots fell in the foreign concessions. The city and country-side were thrown into panic.

After the firing ceased the Chao-Ho remained at anchor keeping watch on the other warships.

The arsenal authorities notified the senior consul of the foreign settlement that the Chao-Ho would be shelled and sunk at daybreak.

ASSOCIATED PRESS LAUNCH
UNDER FIRE FROM GUNBOAT

Attempts to investigate the outbreak met with only partial success. The Associated Press correspondent endeavored to reach the arsenal in a launch, but was challenged by the Tung-Ching and ordered to turn about. Notwithstanding immediate compliance with this order, the gunboat opened fire, damaging the launch slightly.

Three subsequent attempts to reach the arsenal by automobile were unavailing. On each occasion the outer pickets were passed, after a strict examination, but the inner guards turned back the automobile at the point of their rifles.

At the title of the last attempt, at 2 o'clock this morning, there was a heavy outbreak of firing.

POPE WILL URGE PEACE

To Deliver Allocution at Consistory To-day Again Exploring Horrors of War.

ROME, December 5.—At the consistory to-morrow the Pope will deliver an allocution again exploring the horrors of the war and commiserating the Armenians. The Pontiff will urge the quick conclusion of peace, which should be just and durable, favoring neither of the belligerents.

Attention will be called to the fact that, despite the good will of those in authority in the various belligerent countries, the war has made more evil of the abnormal conditions prevailing at the Holy See.

Six cardinals are to be created, whose names have already been made public, and a report was current in Vatican circles to-day that the Pope may, in addition, appoint a new cardinal, whose name will be withheld until the Pope chooses to reveal it.

Several names are mentioned in this connection, including that of Archbishop John Ireland, of St. Paul.

VERNON CASTLE TO FLY

Closes Engagement in "Watch Your Step" and Will Enlist in Aviation Corps of British Army.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] BOSTON, MASS., December 5.—Vernon Castle has closed his engagement with "Watch Your Step" here, and is going to England and enlist in the aviation corps of the British army. Mrs. Castle will remain with the company.

Before going to England Mr. Castle will spend two weeks in California practicing flying. He is an Englishman, and a graduate of Oxford.

SHIP'S RECORD IS CLEAN

No Combatants or Warlike Stores Are Found on Board Mauretania, Used as Hospital.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, December 5.—The secretary for the admiralty announces that, in view of the allegations made in German wireless press messages that British hospital ships are being put to improper uses, the hospital ship Mauretania has been examined at Naples by the American, Danish and Swiss consuls, who jointly signed a declaration that there were neither combatants nor warlike stores aboard.

HUNDREDS ARE KILLED

Discontented Workmen Held Responsible for Explosions in German Munition Factory.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] COPENHAGEN, December 5.—Several hundred persons were killed in a series of explosions to-day in the ammunition factory at Halle, in Prussian Saxony. The explosions destroyed the factory. Private advices forwarded by way of Kolding, a Danish town, brought first news of the disaster. Discontented workmen are suspected.

FOUR CITIES TO BID FOR CONVENTION

Democratic National Committee Meets on Tuesday to Fix Time and Place.

OFFER BIG SUMS OF MONEY

New Treasurer and Secretary to Be Selected—Nothing Known of Fight on McCombs.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—In-dorsement of the Wilson administration and Congress, and the selection of a time and place for the next Democratic National Convention, and election of a new treasurer and secretary will constitute the chief work of the Democratic National Committee, which meets here on Tuesday morning to make preparations for the 1916 presidential campaign.

Four cities—Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas and San Francisco—are in the race for the convention. Dallas and St. Louis are here, each fortified with a \$100,000 check and ready to promise the national committee every convenience. Particular stress is being laid by each delegation on its hotel, railroad and wire facilities. They also have weather maps and records for many years back to prove that climatic conditions will be ideal with them in June, when the convention will be held. June 19 is the opening date generally favored.

The St. Louis delegation offers the use of its convention hall, which it is declared, will seat 14,000 persons. Dallas has no hall other than an auditorium at the State Fair Grounds, but is willing to add to this structure, or erect a new one. A fund of \$30,000, in addition to the \$100,000, has been raised for extra expenses.

REPORTED AS BRINGING FUNDS OF \$100,000

William F. McCombs, chairman of the committee, who arrived here to-night from New York, said he did not know what the Chicago and the San Francisco delegations would offer. Each is reported to be bringing a fund of \$100,000.

With about half of the delegates present to-day James E. Smith, chairman of the St. Louis delegation, claimed seventeen pledges for his city. Other St. Louis men expressed confidence that they would have a majority on the first ballot. These assertions did not disturb the optimism of the Dallas contingent, which reached Washington during the day on a special train led by Governor Ferguson and Mayor Henry D. Lindsey, of Dallas. There are about seventy-five in the party, including the Mayors of seven Texas cities. Only Democrats are on the St. Louis delegation, but the Dallas crowd boasts that it represents all political parties.

Announcement that the Wilson House would remain strictly neutral in the fight caused disappointment among the Texans, who had hoped for the President's support.

Rollo Wells, of Missouri, treasurer of the committee, has informed friends that after presenting his report at the meeting on Tuesday he will resign, because he has become a governor of the Federal reserve bank in St. Louis, and does not feel that he should hold a political position. Who his successor would be was problematical to-night.

PEACE AS SECRETARY TO SUCCEED DAVIES

Thomas J. Peace, of this city, assistant to Chairman McCombs, probably will be elected secretary to succeed Joseph E. Davies, of Wisconsin, who resigned following his appointment as chairman of the Federal Trade Commission.

Emersons that Chairman McCombs might be succeeded by either Homer S. Cummings, national committeeman from Connecticut, or Fred B. Lynch, national committeeman from Minnesota. Are given no confirmation by members of the committee here.

The committee, it was said authoritatively to-night, will take no formal action indicating its preference for the Democratic candidate in 1916, although all of the members expect that President Wilson will be re-nominated.

The committee will have to fill eight vacancies, including two over which there are contests. In Kentucky, General W. B. Haldeman is contesting the seat of the late John C. C. May with Ulysses Woodson, who was elected by the State committee. In Oregon, W. H. Eastley is contesting the seat of Will R. King. The committee will also choose, several Democratic Senators, among them Senator Clarke, of Arkansas; John T. Barnett, of Colorado; W. W. Marsh, of Iowa; Charles F. Johnson, of Maine; Cordell Hull, of Tennessee, and Z. R. Cheney, of Alaska.

Chairman McCombs has promised a delegation of suffragists that he will make an effort to have the committee give them a hearing. Most of the members are understood to be favorable to a forcible conclusion that the committee will take no stand on the suffrage issue.

RECORD MADE ON LAST DAY

Brings Total Attendance of Panama-Pacific Exposition Up to 18,711,957 Persons.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 5.—The total attendance of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, which closed last night, was 18,711,957, according to official announcement to-day. Yesterday was the record day, 458,558 persons having passed through the turnstiles. Workmen began to-day the dismantling of the various foreign and State buildings and exhibition palaces. A few of the exhibits will be sent to the Panama-California International Exposition, at San Diego, and some will be shipped to the Panama Exposition in the Canal Zone.

IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR NEW CONGRESS

Sixty-Fourth Session Will Open To-Day With Nothing to Disturb Harmony.

SUFFRAGE HEADS PROGRAM

National Defense, Revenue and Merchant-Marine Bills of Chief Interest.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—On the eve of the Sixty-fourth Congress, Washington to-night was enlivened by the arrival of hundreds attracted by the opening of Congress, the convention of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, which begins to-morrow, and the meeting of the National Democratic Committee on Tuesday.

House and Senate Democrats completed their organization plans yesterday after a week of deliberation during which obstacles that threatened to disturb the harmonious opening were overcome. The Senate Democrats agreed not to make the fight for a cloture rule a party issue, and the House majority found a way to take care of the greatly increased Republican minority on committees. Legislative issues did not figure materially in the preliminary conferences, although the subjects of national defense and extension of American merchant marine were generally recognized as paramount in the deliberations over committee assignments.

Both houses will convene at noon. In the lower branch the order of business will be the selection of a Speaker. Champ Clark will be nominated by the majority (229) for re-election, and Representative Mann, of Illinois, will be proposed by the Republicans (197).

MEANS DEMONSTRATION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Speaker Clark, whose re-election with the other majority nominees for House offices is assured, upon taking the chair, will recognize Representative Frank Mondell, of Wyoming. This will signalize a demonstration for woman suffrage, the Wyoming member having been chosen to introduce the Susan B. Anthony constitutional amendment for equal suffrage as the first resolution of the new Congress. The Speaker's gallery will be crowded with suffrage advocates of national renown, who propose to make the occasion memorable.

The Senate will convene with Vice-President Marshall absent, owing to the illness of Mrs. Marshall. It will be called to order by Secretary Baker, and the first business will be the inauguration of newly elected members, to be followed immediately by the election of a president pro tempore. Senator James P. Clarke, of Arkansas, will be elected to succeed himself, having been nominated by the Democratic caucus last week. Republican Senators plan to nominate Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, who will continue as minority leader.

In both houses there will be the usual flood of new bills introduced. Among them will be various measures on the subject of national defense, and the attendant problem of raising increased revenue. There also will be the government merchant-marine bill prepared after conferences between Secretary Redfield and Secretary McAdoo. In these will center chief interest of the session, and they will be discussed by the President when he addresses the joint session on Tuesday.

IMPORTANT MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED

Other important measures to be considered include rural credits, amendments to the Sherman antitrust laws, to aid American firms in extending foreign trade, the Philippine bills, consular national prohibition, woman suffrage and tariff problems. In the Senate there are the Nicaraguan and Colombian treaties, and the convention providing for a protectorate over Haiti.

Foreign affairs growing out of the European war, disturbances in this country relating to munition sales, and neutrality observance will occupy much attention. Investigations into operations in this country on behalf of belligerent governments probably will be undertaken.

Administration leaders seemed optimistic to-night over the outlook for desired legislation. The opposition of Representative Kitchen, of North Carolina, majority leader of the new House, to the proposed army and navy increases, is recognized as a handicap, but the Naval and Military Committees have majorities favorable to the administration. On the question of revenue, it is recognized that stumbling blocks are ahead, but it is almost certain that the war tax will be enacted and amended, and the income tax revised.

One ground for more optimistic feeling among administration leaders is the turn that affairs have taken in the Senate toward a merchant-marine bill. Now that a measure has been proposed which would build up government merchant marine as an auxiliary to the navy, several Democratic Senators, among them Senator Clarke, of Arkansas, who fought the ship-purchase bill to death at the last session, have said they would favor such a measure.

FLURRY OVER HOUSE RULES

MAY PREVAIL TO-DAY

A flurry over the House rules, with some of the independent Republicans advocating liberalization of the code now prevailing, may develop to-morrow. A number of the members who favor amendments to the rules met last night and agreed to assent to the adoption of the old rules, to be proposed by the Rules Committee, on the stipulation that their agreement should be in time—a special committee will be prepared to frame and submit a new set of rules providing for more publicity of committee proceedings and modification of committee powers.

Greece Is Expected to Satisfy Allies

GREECE, so far as known, has not complied with the demands of the entente allies for absolute freedom for their troops on Greek soil. Unofficial advices, however, assert that the entente ministers in Athens have been assured that Greece's reply will be satisfactory.

Tentative troops are continuing their gains against the Serbs and Montenegrins in the north. In the south, attempts by the Bulgarians to capture Kresna positions near Kosturina and along the Gerna River were checked.

Berlin reports the defeat by the Bulgarians of the retreating Serb army southwest of Pristina. Railway communication between Nish and Sofia has been re-established.

There has been considerable artillery activity in Belgium and France, in which German positions have been effectively shelled, according to Paris.

Fighting on the western front has consisted of sporadic artillery duels.

BRYAN CALLS ON WILSON TO MAKE PEACE EFFORT

Immediate Offer of Mediation, He Says, Is Demanded "on Ground of Humanity."

ASKS SUPPORT OF CONGRESS

Wants That Body to Assure President of Its Readiness to Stand Behind Him in Any Movement He May Make to Hasten End of War.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, December 5.—President Wilson is called upon to make an immediate effort to bring about peace in Europe in a statement issued to-night by former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan. An immediate offer of mediation, the former secretary says, is demanded "on the ground of humanity."

The Bryan statement follows the former secretary's trip to New York, where he had an encouraging "God-speed" to the unofficial peace envoys on their way to Europe with Henry Ford. It comes on the eve of the assembling of Congress, and Mr. Bryan expresses the hope that the national legislature will at once assure the President of its support in any efforts he may make toward peace.

WANTS CONGRESS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT

Mr. Bryan's statement, in part, follows: "I hope that Congress will at once assure the President of its readiness to support him in any effort which he may see fit to make to hasten the restoration of peace in Europe. He offered mediation at the beginning of the war, but that was sixteen months ago. Since that time more than 2,000,000 men have been killed, more than 5,000,000 have been wounded, and more than \$20,000,000,000 have been expended.

"In horrible detail and extent of suffering, the war has surpassed anything known in history. An offer of mediation is not only amply justified by the ground of humanity, but it is demanded. If, however, other reasons are desired, they can be found in our obligation to the other neutral nations.

"Our nation not only shares the sufferings of other neutral nations, but the war is being used as a reason for demanding a change in our national policy, which lowers our ideals, and puts us into a mad rivalry with Europe in the increase of military and naval expenditures. To be the means of bringing the war to an end would not only add to our moral influence, but it might save the country a billion or more in taxes, and it would also put an end to the manufactured scarcity which are being used to frighten the public. The other neutral nations wait on us.

STATEMENT OF TERMS COULD BE SECURED

"There is abundant reason to believe that the President either alone or in conjunction with executives of other neutral nations can secure from the nations at war a statement of the terms upon which peace is possible, and a statement of the exchange of views, which would lead to a treaty. The terms must be announced some time. Why not now? To ask for a statement of those terms is merely to ask the belligerent nations to say for what they are fighting. Each of the governments at war certainly knows what it is that it demands—otherwise, it could not justify a continuation of the slaughter. And if the belligerent nations know for what they are fighting, why not tell the world?

"Publicity will in itself sift out unworthy motives and unreasonable demands. When the world knows what each nation demands as a condition precedent to peace, the responsibility can be located and moral pressure can be brought to bear in favor of a peace that will rest upon reason and give promise of permanence.

"To deny the possibility of an era of peace, based upon love and brotherhood, is to challenge Christian civilization—a return to savagery, to deny the coming of that era is execrable."

FOOT WANTS A FIGHT

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] ROME, December 5.—Gabriele d'Annunzio, the noted Italian poet, has challenged Deputy Mazzoni Graziadei to fight a duel. The challenge is based on alleged insulting remarks said to have reflected on the honor of the poet. The derogatory remarks were said to have been made in Parliament on Saturday.

DIPLOMATS STILL SEEK TO UNRAVEL GRECIAN SNARL

New Hitches Constantly Arise as Old Ones Are Smoothed Out.

ALLIED COUNTRIES BECOMING IMPATIENT

Press of France and Italy Demands That Stern Action Be Taken Toward Constantine.

ROUMANIA STILL IS UNDECIDED

Silence Settles Upon Bukharest Since Announcement of Closing Ports.

LONDON, December 5.—The negotiations between the allies and Greece still drag on in Athens, new hitches seemingly arising as the old ones are smoothed out. One day it is reported a settlement has been reached, only to be followed by denial or accounts of fresh difficulties confronting the diplomats. The people of the allied countries, particularly those of France and Italy, are becoming impatient over the continual delays, and the press is demanding that stern action be taken to demonstrate to King Constantine and his ministers the determination of the quadruple entente to secure the assurances demanded. New proposals are said to have been made by France and Great Britain in the hope of reaching an agreement.

ATTITUDE OF ROUMANIA REMAINS UNDECIDED

The attitude of Roumania also remains undecided. Since the dispatch announcing the closing of Roumanian ports to foreign trade was received, silence has descended upon Bukharest, and Europe is awaiting anxiously the next move which will give a meaning to this order. The general belief is that the Roumanian government is waiting for the concentration of a sufficient Russian force in Bessarabia and a large enough Anglo-French army in Southern Serbia, to make victory certain before joining the war.

Meanwhile, the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces continue rounding up the few Serbian troops remaining in Serbia, and also are prosecuting with their usual energy the campaign against Montenegro.

Unusual calm prevails on the various battle fronts, even the Italians apparently slackening their offensive, probably in preparation for the next phase, which they hope will place Greece in their hands, with other commanding positions on which the Austrian hold has weakened during the past weeks of heavy fighting.

DEFEAT IN MESOPOTAMIA DISAPPOINTMENT BRITISH

The check suffered by General Townshend in Mesopotamia is a severe disappointment to the British public, which had looked upon this expedition as the brightest spot thus far in the war, with the possible exception of General Botha's conquest of German Southwest Africa. Nothing has been heard from General Townshend since he reached Kut-el-Amara, where it is likely he will make a stand, as the position is a very strong one, where he could hold out until reinforcements reached him. It is not only the military failure, but the effect the retirement will have on the British possessions in the East, which make the result so unfortunate from the British point of view.

RETREATING SERBIANS DEFEATED NEAR BORDER

BERLIN, December 5.—(By wireless to Sayville.)—Retreating Serbians have been overtaken and defeated near the Albanian border by the Bulgarians, the War office announced to-day. More than 100 cannon were taken. The occupation of Monastir by Germans and Bulgarians is officially confirmed. The statement follows:

"German and Bulgarian detachments entered Monastir and were welcomed joyfully by the authorities and the people. "Bulgarian halted the retreating enemy southwest of Pristina (Serbia), near the Albanian border, defeated him and captured more than 100 cannon and large quantities of war material, among which were 200 automobiles."

FOR AID IN ROAD-BUILDING

Ohio Federation Draws Up Bill to Be Presented to Congress Providing Annual Appropriation of \$25,000,000.

COLUMBUS, O., December 5.—Draft of a bill providing for an annual appropriation of \$25,000,000 to be used by the States in highway improvements was made public here to-night at headquarters of the Ohio Good Roads Federation. The measure was drawn by a committee of the American Association of State Highway Officials for presentation to Congress.

Under the provisions of the bill, only those States who have highway improvements of prescribed standards would share in the appropriations, but those which have no highway departments would be given three years in which to create them.

Distribution would be made according to the area, population and mileage of rural post roads of each State. The measure provides that the government shall not contribute more than 50 per cent of the total cost of road construction.

The draft of the bill will be ratified by the association at a meeting in Chicago to-morrow, members of the Ohio federation said to-night.